*The Great Gatsby*: Chapters VII – IX (pages 113-180)

Directions: Answer these questions on a separate piece of paper as you read.

***Chapter VII***

1. Why does Gatsby fire all of his old servants?

2. Explain the significance of the heat.

3. The people at Gatsby’s decide to go to New York. Explain the driving/car arrangements.

4. Why do they stop in the valley of ashes?

5. Who peers from the window?

6. Of whom is Myrtle jealous and why?

7. Why is Tom in a panic in this chapter?

8. The chapter climaxes with a confrontation between Tom and Gatsby. What happens?

9. Why does Tom refer to the liaison between Daisy and Gatsby in terms of intermarriage?

10. What is the significance of Nick’s thirtieth birthday?

11. Why does Tom insist that Daisy and Gatsby drive home together?

12. Who dies in this chapter and how?

13. Why are Tom and Daisy reconciled?

14. Why does Daisy not call Gatsby?

15. Why is Gatsby left standing outside the mansion “watching over” nothing?

***Chapter VIII***

1. What does Nick hear through the night? What does it symbolize?

2. Explain the poignancy of Gatsby’s inability to let go of the dream.

3. Why has Daisy’s value increased in Gatsby’s eyes?

4. When we learn of Gatsby’s past and his first encounters with Daisy, what do we find out about why Gatsby “takes” Daisy?

5. Why does Gatsby choose to confess his past now?

6. Why is Gatsby’s love for Daisy described in religious terms?

7. Gatsby is breathless for Daisy. Why?

8. Gatsby returns to Louisville after Daisy breaks up with him. Why? What is the significance of that passage?

9. Why have the ash heaps become famous?

10. George Wilson goes on his own quest in this chapter. What is it?

11. What is disturbing and sad about Wilson’s belief in T. J. Eckleburg?

12. What is Gatsby doing when Wilson kills him? Why is this significant?

13. What happens to Wilson?

***Chapter IX***

1. Why does Myrtle run out in the street?

2. Where are Daisy and Tom after Gatsby dies, and why is this significant?

3. Why is Nick responsible for Gatsby after his death?

4. What is the significance of Wolfshiem and Klipspringer not coming to the funeral?

5. Mr. Gatz produces a photograph of Gatsby’s house and something else. What is the other item, and what is its significance?

6. What is the significance of young Gatsby’s regimented schedule designated in the book?

7. Is Mr. Gatz proud of his son? How do you know?

8. Who attends the funeral?

9. Why does Nick return home?

10. As Nick prepares to leave, he observes how the New World must have looked to the Dutch sailors. Read this passage, and explain what they see, according to Nick, what they thought, and how this important passage fits into the novel thematically.

11. What does Nick mean when he says that Gatsby believed in the “green light, the orgastic future that year by year recedes before us”?

12. Explain how “So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past” is both hopeful and hopeless and makes sense as a final line for the novel.